

**It's just
a step to
Texas**



OLLIE JAMES

Continued from first page.

Now, "Whitey" is not his real name. Oh no! In fact he is known by that appellation very slightly. But when he was a boy, a jolly fat boy as the promise of the great big man, intellectually and physically that he is now, this autism was so generally employed that many people were ignorant of his real name. This nickname was given him because of his white hair (he has't any at all now,) his white eye brows and lashes and his white skin.

His real name is Ollie M. James the big congressman from the

First Kentucky district, the bosom friend of Champ Clark and William Jennings Bryan and one of the foremost Democrats and public men of the day. He is an orator whose services are in demand from one extreme of the nation to the other and whose eloquent utterances and scathing denunciations have been as widely quoted and commented upon as any national figure of this or any other period.

Everybody is familiar with Mr. James public life. So this article is not intended to rehash any of the familiar lore; but, on the other hand, comparatively few are acquainted with his home life his boyhood, his early manhood and the relation he now bears

to his home town, and it is to present this that this is written.

Mr. James was born July 27, 1871 on a farm seven miles from Marion. From the first the baby was a neighborhood curiosity by reason of his great size and the peculiar whiteness of his skin and hair, and almost before he was given a surname, he was called "Whitey." It was not long after the birth of the boy that the family moved to Marion where they have lived ever since and where Mr. L. H. James the father has engaged in the practice of law.

The boy's education was secured in the public schools at Marion and it must be admitted that as a pupil he never took any prizes. He had a confirmed habit of strolling into the schoolroom sometime after the tardy bell had rung and barely managed to scrape through with passing grades on most of his studies. But what he may have lacked in studiousness he made up in his penchant for getting into mischief. That his poor recitations did not indicate a dull or slowly working mind was shown by the nimbleness of his wits and his resourcefulness in planning escapades for himself and his companions. Second only to this propensity was his ability in extricating himself and companions, his success generally being due to his persuasiveness in arguing with his teacher or accuser, forerunner of the eloquence and power in debate which have played such an important part in his later career.

Mr. James might be truly termed a "born politician." From infancy almost he evidenced an interest in politics and as he grew older this waxed stronger. He would go any distance or brave any hardship to hear a political speech; he haunted the polling places on election days, his chief pleasure in reading was to pore over the columns of daily papers given to reporting and discussing public affairs. As early as nine years of age he formed the habit of reading the papers aloud to his father, who suffered much from rheumatism. Mr. James, Sr. encouraged this interest and would discuss the matters read thus impressing them upon the youthful brain. With a marvelously retentive mind for facts and figures, the embryo statesman early became a local authority upon political matters and when called upon, he rarely failed to have the desired information. It is told on Mr. James at Marion that as one man expressed it, until he "was a right smart chunk of a boy," he was a republican. Mr. James emphatically denies this.

But if there was one special line of endeavor in which Mr. James might be said to have excelled his boyish companions, it was in his ability and willingness to carry water for any purpose. He was almost looked upon as the town water-carrier, and he was always ready and willing to undertake a job. Whenever a circus struck town, "Whitey" always paid his admission to the big tent by carrying water to the elephants and among the most cherished possessions of his wife today is a photograph of the sturdy boy which was made by an itinerant photographer as payment for water brought.

To look at him now no one would ever imagine that Mr. James ever took to outdoor sport very much. But he did and one of his special delights was ice-skating. In this he excelled, not only in racing, but in fancy skating. His skill and fleetness was only matched by his ease and grace and no skating party was complete without him.

For some reason Mrs. James, his mother, did not have the ambition for her son to follow the law or politics as a means of livelihood. Her chief ambition was for him to be a dentist and

when he did not seem to take to this, she almost succeeded in talking him into the notion of going west to travel as agent for a patent churn or some other household contrivances. But just when it seemed this plan was the accepted one, Mr. James decided to study law and entered his father's office for that purpose.

Having once decided to be a lawyer, he made quick work of it. In a comparatively short time, he passed the required examination and was admitted to the bar and taken into full partnership with his father, the firm name being James & James. But all this time he had kept his finger on the political pulse and he soon began to voice his opinion in the curbstome discussions and it was natural that he should drift into public speaking.

In his first real political debate his opponent was E. T. Franks, a citizen of Marion and a rip-roaring Republican who has since attained a prominent place in the state leadership of his party and was one of the three candidates recently for the Republican nomination for governor. Mr. Franks was an older man and a more seasoned campaigner and the youthful orator of the House of James came out second best, but with great credit to himself and an undaunted spirit.

In 1887 Mr. James made his first step out in real political life. That year he was elected page in the lower house of the state legislature then at Frankfort. The following session he was cloakroom keeper in the senate. The daily association with politicians during this time and the mere being in the vortex of excitement that always reigns at the capitol during a session of the legislature, gave the incipient statesman much valuable training and a keen insight into the game in which he was destined to play such an important part.

Unlike so many others, Mr. James did not climb by slow steps upward to a prominent place in politics. He never held any county offices or minor district or state positions. He considered carefully before asking for anything at the hands of the people and not until 1903, did he decide that the time had come. In that year, he announced as a candidate for representative in congress, his claim for the place being backed up with a record of years of faithful service to his party during which he had established a widespread reputation as an orator and campaigner. His opponent was Sam Crossland of Mayfield, and Mr. James won by a large majority. The First District is the Gibraltar Democratic district of Kentucky and so well pleased were his supporters with his services that he was re-elected to congress four times.

This year he decided that it was time that he was promoted and so asked for the Democratic nomination for United States senator over Thomas H. Paynter, the incumbent. These race between these two attracted much attention because of the bitterness injected into it. Just a few days before the primary election was held on July 1st to decide the matter as to who would be the nominee for this and state offices, Mr. Paynter, very much to the surprise of everyone, withdrew from the race leaving Mr. James a clear field. The latter's vote was a high testimonial to his popularity, he receiving practically the solid vote that was polled.

Mr. James was married December 2nd, 1903, to Miss Ruth Thomas, daughter of Rev. R. Y. Thomas, a Methodist minister who lived at Marion. Her brother, Robert Y. Thomas, has served in various public capacities and is now representative in congress from the Third Kentucky district. As a girl, Mrs. James was noted for her beauty, her graciousness and wit. She is a petite

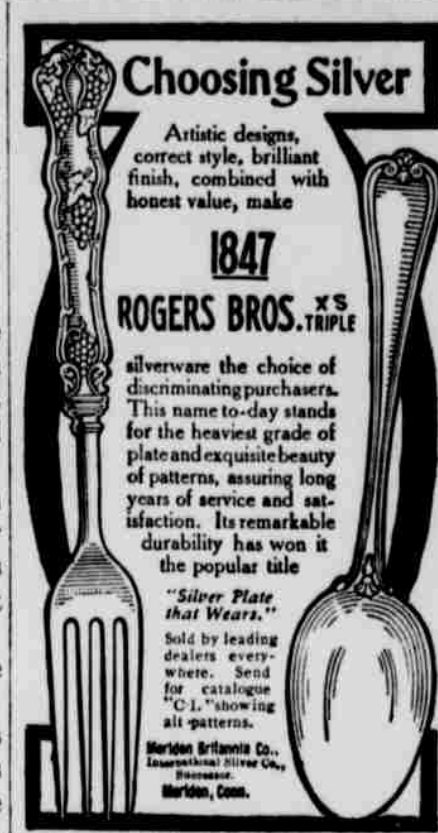
brunette and spends most of her time in Washington with her husband where she is a general favorite.

In religious life Mr. James is as ardent and enthusiastic as he is in politics. He comes of staunch Methodist stock and has not departed from the ways in which he was reared. He is one of the pillars of the Methodist Church at Marion; one of the kind that gives liberally of his means and attends upon all the ordinances. This summer this congregation is engaged in building a new house of worship and Mr. James was one of the first and most liberal contributors.

Practically all of his spare time Mr. James spends at Marion. During these vacations he sits about his beautiful home, loafing in the stores, puts in some time in his law office or the courtroom and mingles generally with the people. He takes a deep interest in the affairs of his home town and is always ready and willing to give aid in any way he can. If it is to help out some local candidate for office he answers the call promptly and carries consternation into the opposing forces with the vigor and power of the speeches he delivers. If it is to raise money for some worthy enterprise or charitable object he subscribes liberally and without delay. In this respect, he is looked upon almost as a patron saint and when help is needed he is one of the first thought of.

Marion is an enthusiastic baseball town and when Mr. James is at home he never misses a ball game. He is king of rooters row and is worth several times the price of admission to see this massive man who always sways multitudes by his magic words seize his hat in his hand and tear up and down and yell and howl as only dyed in the wool baseball fans do. In this pose as rooster in chief, one would hardly recognize him as the dignified, eloquent and profound Ollie M. James, M. C.

While he enjoys his home to the fullest extent, he is not a bit stingy about it and is always anxious to give his less fortunate fellows a taste of it. Many of the most prominent men of the country are frequent visitors at his house. But in addition to this, he very often takes or sends some reminder back to his fellow lawmakers. Champ Clark is especially favored in this regard and receives a large share of the gifts the big Kentuckian bestows. The hefty congressman thinks no one can cure a ham like his father does it. Mr. James fattens and butchers his own hogs each winter and personally superintends the curing of the meat. In the smoking process, he burns nothing but sassafras wood which he claims gives the meat a peculiarly delicate and aromatic taste. One time Ollie took Champ one of the hams and the Missourian liked it so well and expressed such enthusiasm over it, that now he gets one frequently. But perhaps the best of these stories is that



about the sorghum molasses.

There is a man named Conger who lives near Marion and whose home-made sorghum molasses is declared to be the "best ever" by people who like that sort of sweetness. Mr. James is very fond of the molasses and so last fall when at home, the notion struck him that his friend and colleague Clark would like it too. When he was ready to leave, he bought him a bright, new tin bucket, put a gallon of the molasses in it, and lugged it in his hand all the way to Washington in order to be sure that it got there safely.

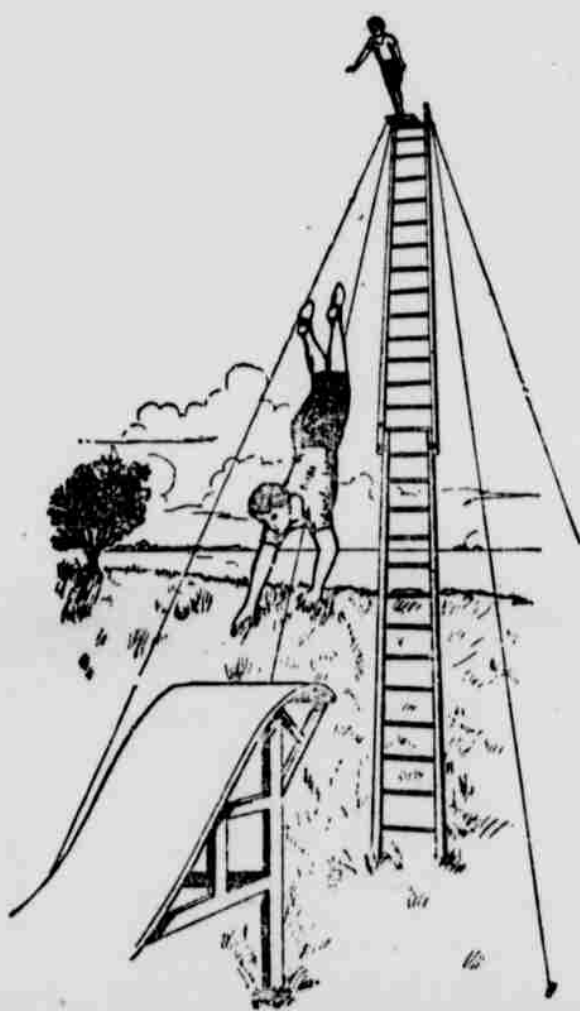
Mr. James is appreciated by everybody, but if you want to see the real, genuine article in appreciation, the kind that is all wool and a yard wide, is guaranteed not to fade, rip, tear or run down at the heel, you should just go to Marion sometime and see him among his town people. The Democrats and Republicans there are about evenly divided in number every time an election is to be held, they fight each other with all the determination and say all the mean, hateful things about each other that Democrats and Republicans generally do on these pleasant occasions. At such times and under such heated conditions, Mr. James comes in for his full share of the lambasting, he being as it were, put in effigy as one of the hated opposition. But aside from politics there was never a more popular man in his home town than Ollie M. James. The Republicans there are as proud of his high position in public life as are the Democrats and they do not mind saying so. Every body feels that in producing a man such as he is the town itself shares to a large extent his reflected glory.

Everybody knows him and to the majority of the people he goes by the name of Ollie. He is as well known throughout the country as he is in town and these rural friends and acquaintances yell their greetings to him as far as they can see him and the recipient of these attentions never fails to stop for a friendly chat and to ask about the health of the family, the state of the crops and matters in general on the farm. But even to this good day, some of the older generation occasionally hails him with the boyhood nom de guerre of "Whitey" and that he has not forgotten it is shown by the alacrity with which the answer is returned. What the future holds for the eloquent statesman can not be foretold, though now it seems to be rich in promise of higher honors than he has yet attained. But whatever may be his lot, the people of Marion will ever be found true to Ollie James and interested in his welfare and ready to do what they can to help him along. That he too will continue to cherish his love for his native town and to feel an interest in all its doings, is assured, and the name of Mr. James and of Marion will continue to be linked together in coming years as they have in the past.

M. E. BACON.

**Only Show to be Here This Year!
Marion, Thursday, Aug. 31**

ROBINSON'S FAMOUS SHOWS



German Menagerie 1,000 rare and Costly Animals

Madame Josephene's Troupe of 14 Performing Leopards

Herr Van Gordon's Troupe of 14 Performing Lions

Herd of Educated Elephants

Drove of Camels

2 Troupes Trained Horses and Dogs

3 Big Circuses, 3 Rings

110 Acts

110 Artists

10 Male and Female Riders

Troupe of Bicycle Riders

Troupe of Japanese Riders

9 DeCosta Aerial Acts

World's Greatest Riders—

Davenport Family

15 Features

30 Ground Acts

40 Aerial Artists

Troupe of Arabs

10 Myers Brothers Aerialists

10 Haydens—Wire Artists

50 Clowns and Tumblers.

10 Specialties

I. X. L. RANCH WILD WEST

50 Cow Boys and Girls—Trick Riding—Lassoing—Virginia Reel—Rough Riding—Stage Coach Robbery—Hanging Horse Thief—Bucking Horse Riding—Company of Ex. U. S. Cavalry Rough Riders.

GRAND FREE STREET PARADE

8 Brass Bands, 6 Tableaux, Cages, Dens, Steam Caliope, 50 Mounted People, Wild West, Elephants, Camels, Etc.

Two Shows Daily Doors Open 1 and 7 P. M.
Cheap Excursions on all Railroads.

A Barbed Wire Cut, Collar or Saddle Gail not properly healed leaves a disfiguring scar.

Ballard's SNOW LINIMENT

Is the Right Remedy for All Abrasions of the Flesh.

If the wound is cleansed and the liniment applied promptly, the healing process begins at once and the wound heals from the inside outwardly, thus performing a perfect cure that leaves no scar. If the wound heals on the outside too quickly, pus forms under the surface and breaks out into a running sore that is hard to cure and inevitably leaves a bad scar.

Owners of blooded stock prefer this liniment to all others for that reason, and they use it not only on fine animals, but on human flesh, as it does its work quickly and thoroughly.

Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00.
James F. Ballard, Prop., St. Louis, Mo.
Stephens Eye Salve is a healing ointment for sore eyes.

RECOMMENDED BY

J. H. Orme, Marion, Ky.